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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, I & S Staff

DATE: 27 November 1940

FROM : Bluebird Team

SUBJECT: Conclusions Concerning the Medical Phase of the Operations

The technique of drug application under cover of the D. D. machine was very successful.

The drugs of choice, so far as could be determined from this study, were first the oral administration of Sodium Amytal, 6 grains, followed in approximately one hour by Sodium Amytal intravenously. The latter is given in a 5% solution at the rate of 1 cc a minute.

It seems best to allow the Subject to sleep off the effects of the drug for this quite definitely insures amnesia. However, where it is necessary to awaken him or in any instance where there seems to be a little too much interference with consciousness and it is desired to return him to accessibility, Coramine intravenously is an excellent drug for stimulatory purposes. The only objection to this particular drug is that it produces attacks of sneezing. (This symptom is very transient in character however.) Another drug found useful as a stimulant, is Picrotoxin which may be given either intravenously or intramuscularly. When given in cases during this study, the latter drug did not produce the effect of full recovery from the sedative. However, this may well have been due to over caution in its administration, especially concerning the amount. Further experimental work may enable the operator to produce more nearly the results desired.

The use of Sodium Pentothal intravenously is similar in its effect to that of Sodium Amytal except that the duration of the impaired consciousness is shorter. This, off-hand, might seem desirable but the amnesia we desire is not so well assured as in a longer acting sedative. There is a slight degree of danger from the use of Sodium Pentothal compared to that of Sodium Amytal.

It is recommended that the oral and intravenous Sodium Amytal with the Coramine or Picrotoxin as a stimulant be utilized for the time being in the continuation of the work of this character. If the avoidance of an overt hypnotic technique were not required, it is probable that excellent results might be obtained through the oral use of Sodium Amytal but due to the necessity of being surreptitious, it is necessary to combine the oral and intravenous or to use the intravenous method alone in order to produce the delicate point between consciousness and unconsciousness required for Subconscious Isolation.

The combined technique of the D. D. machine and the medicinal use, ostensibly to calm the patient so that the charts will not be distorted, seems an excellent one and it is recommended that it be continued. Each Subject given the combined technique felt that the medicine was administered only to help him concerning his reaction on the machine.

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